



4.0 Conducting and Managing the Assessment

This section is a brief summary of the requirements for conducting and managing the assessment found in Appendix II-D.

Paramount among the features of the management structure specified is the new public involvement paradigm this approach represents. Day-to-day management of the assessment work is carried out by a board composed of representatives from the people and socio-economic groups which, if the potential river contamination materializes, will be affected by Hanford's cleanup and disposal decisions. As a result, for the first time, cleanup effectiveness is assessed under the management of the people who are potentially affected. This effectiveness assessment is done objectively in a spirit of service and teamwork with DOE and its contractors in support of effective cleanup decision making which protects the people, ecosystems, and cultures dependent on the Columbia River.

Appendix II-D requirements address the management and CRCIA decision roles to be performed by those affected groups who accept the invitation to be represented on the Board. Since the Columbia River corridor to be assessed extends to the estuary at the Pacific Ocean, the representatives on the Board may become numerous. For practical day-to-day management purposes, the requirements provide for a hands-on Executive Board, consisting of those more closely related to the Hanford Site. Several sovereign governments will be represented on the Board. Participation does not abrogate any sovereign rights.

Funding would be provided by DOE through the Congressional appropriations process. Competition for scarce cleanup resources is on a merit basis. This means allocation of funding for assessment work would be expected to be in proportion to the value returned to the cleanup effort by the assessment's results. CRCIA deliverables are estimates of contaminant levels reaching receptors in and through the Columbia River, the sources of those contaminants within the Hanford Site, and the effects on the receptors resulting from exposure to the contaminants.

In collaboration with the Board, DOE would appoint an experienced Project Manager whom the Board would establish as the Executive Administrator and advocate of CRCIA. DOE would provide routine support services such as conference rooms, subcontracting services, clerical support and publishing services. While a DOE contractor would perform virtually all the assessment work through a senior manager dedicated to CRCIA, Board members are expected to perform significant management tasks such as developing CRCIA budget proposals, some of the higher level resource loaded schedules, and evaluating assessment technical problems and choices. Board members also are expected to review preliminary technical results and present progress reports to DOE, Hanford Site project leaders, and constituent stakeholder groups. Because most of the Board members are not likely to have technical experience, the Board may, from time to time, hire the independent technical expertise needed.

The Board is actively accountable to its constituencies through periodic progress reviews and an outreach program. The Board also is accountable to DOE and its contractors for providing technical results from the assessment needed to support cleanup decision making.



Realizing that this paradigm introduces a new way of doing business at Hanford, an implementation period is to be planned which allows — for an interim period — conduct of assessment work under existing practices with the CRCIA Team acting in its current advisory role.